

February 2014

# OLYMPIA BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.



## NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR ALL OLYMPIA AREA BEEKEEPERS

**Next meeting and classes March 10th. Reminder - nomination of Officers for the new year. See you there!**

### March Program

"The Importation of Honey Bee Germplasm, and the Importance of Diversity"

This talk will look at the historical introduction of honey bees into the US, genetic bottlenecks and the importance of genetic diversity to honey bee fitness. A review of the WSU cooperative industry & University project to import honey bee germplasm and incorporate this into US breeding stocks will also be reviewed. Aspects of this include the re-introduction of the subspecies *Apis mellifera caucasica*, known for its use of propolis as a self-medication against pathogens, and the establishment of the world's first Germplasm Repository for honey bees.

#### Bio Brief:

Susan Cobey, an acknowledged world expert in the field of honey bee breeding, maintains the New World Carniolan Closed Population Breeding Program, now in its 32rd generation. She currently operates Honey Bee Insemination Service and holds a 50% appointment at Washington State University. A major focus is an industry and University collaborative effort to enhance domestic U.S. honey bee breeding stocks through the incorporation of germplasm collected from Old World European honey bees. This project includes the establishment of the world's first germplasm repository at WSU. She continues to offer classes in queen rearing and instrumental insemination to promote bee breeding techniques. Her background is both commercial and academic, having worked for several bee research labs, including University of CA, Davis, The Ohio State University, and the USDA Honey Bee Lab., Baton Rouge, as well as in commercial queen production in FL. and CA. and operated a queen production business, Vaca Valley Apiaries, in northern California.

## **President's Message**

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Hi everyone,

Thanks to everyone that offered help, delivered posters or volunteered items for the Bee Event and Movie Screening at The Evergreen State College on March 8th. If you haven't connected with me on items or honey please e-mail me at [LMPCarl@gmail.com](mailto:LMPCarl@gmail.com) that the items can be retrieved prior to the 8th. We **will** have tickets available at the door that evening. I will be sending out an e-mail to those that signed up to help at the last meeting sometime later this week. It is from 6-10:00 pm and is going to be a fabulous evening!

Please consider serving as a club officer for the coming year. The offices of vice president and secretary will have vacancies needing filled as will the program chair. Any current club officer would be happy to talk more with you about what they do and provide more information about their office, so if you're interested, please don't hesitate to ask for more information. Officer elections will be held during our April meeting.

If you didn't hear, the Oregon Legislature failed to pass a bill listing the neonicotinoid pesticides dinotefuran, imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam to Oregon's list of restricted pesticides. In a year that held major devastating die-offs of bees in Oregon, the failure of this bill to pass was a blow to beekeepers and bee advocates. This underscores how important it is for each of us to lend our voices to issues that impact us as beekeepers and as bee advocates.

Sue Cobey will be our presenter for the March meeting, and you won't want to miss it. Sue's well-known and respected in the honeybee world and has a wealth of information to share.

And, please remember to either become or renew your membership as soon as possible. Package orders require current membership.

I hope to see you on the 8th at Evergreen for the Bee Fair, the amazing bee art gallery, organic gardening displays, pesticide information, native

pollinator information, "The Pollinator Protector Award", a student documentary, "More than Honey" and a Skype question and answer from Berlin.

And, many many thanks to Kathy Miles who makes sure that each meeting there are refreshments set up and that its all cleaned up and put away for the next month. You are appreciated beyond words!

Laurie

### Treasurer's Report

CHECKING BALANCE \$ 3234.21

SAVINGS BALANCE \$5130.46

CASH ON HAND \$ 69.04

**Minutes**  
**Olympia Beekeepers Association Meeting**  
**February 10, 2014**

**New Members**

Approximately three new members introduced themselves.

**Old Business**

The Minutes and Treasurer's Report from the January meeting were approved.

**More Than Honey film event**

The OBA event screening of the film *More Than Honey* is coming up on **Saturday, March 8 from 6:00pm – 10:00pm**. The event will take place in lecture theatre 1 and the adjacent rotunda at The Evergreen State College. At 7:00pm a short documentary film created by Evergreen students on the bee crisis will be shown. At 7:15pm, Mr. Thompson of Lincoln Creek Lumber will be presented with a pollinator protector award from the Club for his action of removing all products containing neonicotinoids from his store when he learned the devastating impacts of these pesticides on pollinators. The film *More Than Honey* will then be screened and followed by a Q & A session with filmmaker Markus Imhoof via skype.

Evergreen is very enthusiastic about collaborating with the Club and have sent out a notice to their alumni about the event. Evergreen student groups involved include The SOS, The Ecological Agricultural Group, The Evergreen Bee Club, and The Evergreen Community Garden Club.

Tickets for the event are \$10 each and are now for sale at Radiance Herbs and Massage and Traditions Café in Olympia as well as at Gordon's Garden Center in Yelm. Evergreen students will be transforming the rotunda adjacent to the theatre into a 'bee art gallery' and the club will have various display tables set up, including a table for information on native bees.

This will be an event to involve our community and teach people about the importance of pollinator conservation and protection, to educate and encourage people who are interested in becoming beekeepers or just want to know what they can do to help pollinators.

Club members are needed to volunteer both at the event as well as to distribute promotional posters. Volunteers working the event will not need to purchase a ticket. Demonstrational props such as drawn out frames, combs displaying swarm cells, and other items of interest are needed for the event. If you have any items of this nature that you would like to display at the event, please contact Laurie Pyne prior to March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please note that the top bar hive donated to the club by Pat Sturgill will be used during the event for demonstration, and then raffled to club members at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Renzy Davenport – bee package orders**

Club bee package orders will be taken on **Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:30pm** at Chinook Middle School prior to the OBA meeting. You must be a paid member to order bees through the club. Orders via mailed check will be accepted for those who cannot attend the meeting to place their orders. Please note that the club is unable to take back the wooden boxes that bee packages were shipped in last year. Please arrive early to place your order! Further details will be published in the Beeline.

Available for order are 5-frame nucs, individual queens, and 3lb. packages.

Current Prices:

\$72.50 for 3 lb package with your choice of marked Italian or Carniolan queen (box deposit included).

\$24.00 per single marked Italian or Carniolan queen.

No price for nucs yet, but these will be approximately \$90 with no choice on queen type.

Please note that these prices are subject to change.

Payment methods include checks (preferred), money orders or cash.

Pickup date is tentatively Saturday, April 19, at Harvard Robbins' in Lakewood. Directions for pick up location will be provided.

You **MUST** pick up your bees within the pickup timeframe, which will be outlined at the next meeting.

Packages and nucs will probably not arrive on the same day. A demonstration on how to hive your bees will take place at the pick up location at a specific time (to be announced.) Order forms will be available online.

## **New Business**

Nominations are now being taken for all Club positions and elections will be made at the April meeting. Renzy Davenport, Rebbeckah Allen, and Rich Kalman have indicated that they will not continue in their positions of Vice-President, Secretary and Program Chair, respectively.

## **Update from Mark Emrich, WBSA President:**

Update on house bills: Bill SSB 6402 will change beekeeping from being classified as 'service' to 'agriculture'. The bill has been expanded to include all bee products. This will also allow beekeepers to obtain government subsidized agricultural insurance.

Thank you to Jim Rieck who attended the bill hearing on behalf of Mark to give testimony so that the bill was passed.

The limited liability bill is still live, but in process.

## **Club Apiary**

The club is currently considering several potential sites. This would provide a demonstration / teaching facility as well as a honey extracting site.

## **Program:**

Josh Vincent from the Center for Alternatives to Pesticides.

## Invitation to All who attend the OBA meetings:

Please consider presenting a short (about 5-10 minute) show-and-tell topic at one of the meetings: For Example, you may:

- ◆ Review beekeeping equipment you either constructed or purchased
- ◆ Recommend a book or video from the club library, or elsewhere
- ◆ Describe a new twist on an old process related to bees
- ◆ Demonstrate something you made from from a hive product
- ◆ Introduce and educational web-resource related to beekeeping
- ◆ Present a topic related to beekeeping of interest to members

Share your Knowledge, Help make our meetings interesting and useful.

Please contact Rich to get on the program: [rich.beekeeper@gmail.com](mailto:rich.beekeeper@gmail.com)

## Future Program Previews:

Morris Ostrofsky presenting: The Miller Method-Graft Free Queen Rearing

Many beekeepers reach a point in their beekeeping experience where they are comfortable with the basics and are seeking a new challenge. Raising queens is one however for many beekeepers the idea of grafting to produce queens is intimidating. This presentation is to share one graft-free queen rearing techniques explaining how a few high quality queens can be reared without special equipment or tools by a beekeeper.



Reminder: Apprentice Beekeepers Class is growing so arrive early if you want a seat.

Plants, books, seeds, and other artifacts are always appreciated for the meeting raffle.

And if you have a tasty snack to share, everyone enjoys something sweet.

**January:** Top Bar hive construction by Pat.

**February:** Josh Vincent from NWCAP on pesticides (Nomination of Officers)

**March:** Sue Cobey, WSU, cryogenic germplasm collection. (Order bees. Elect officers.)

**April:** Morris Ostrofsky on "Backyard Queen Rearing" (Bees arrive.)

**May:** What To Do Now!

**June:** Last meeting before summer break.

**July:** Summer break. Picnic (?)

**August:** Thurston county fair.  
National Honey Bee Day 2014 - Aug 16th

**September:** Meetings resume. Dues payable

**October:** TBA

**November:** TBA

**December:** Christmas Potluck

**Monthly Meetings:** held the second Monday of each month, excluding July and August.

**Place:** Chinook Middle School, 4301 6th Ave NE, Lacey, WA

**Time:** 6:00 pm for Beginning Beekeeper's Certification Program, 7:00 pm for the association meeting. Meetings are held in the Cafeteria. Beekeeping class meets in the central hall Science Room.

**Agenda:** Each meeting is conducted with old and new business, and a program related to beekeeping. Attendees, if they choose, donate a gift for the raffle table. The Treasurer and Membership Chair sell tickets for \$1.00 and at the break there is are refreshments available.